

# METROPOLITAN PUBLIC GARDENS ASSOCIATION



Annual Report and  
Accounts 2018



## De Beauvoir Square (LB Hackney)

*Front cover picture:  
Garden Museum by courtesy of Shirley Brihi*



# ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2018

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## METROPOLITAN PUBLIC GARDENS ASSOCIATION

# OFFICERS

### **President**

Mr Hugh Johnson OBE

### **Vice Presidents**

The Marchioness of Salisbury

The Viscount Davidson

Sir David Howard Bt

The Master, The Worshipful Company of Gardeners

Ms Rosie Atkins FL

Ms Joyce Bellamy MBE

Mr Alistair Gould

Mr Wesley Kerr OBE

Mr Christopher Woodward

**Chairman** Mr William B Fraser OBE

**Hon Treasurer** Mrs Marjorie Dowbiggin

**Hon Secretary** Mrs Mandy Kidd

**Hon Minutes Secretary** Ms Nicola Freshwater

### **Executive Committee**

The Officers as above, Mrs Shirley Brihi, Mr Benedict Bull, Ms Jodie Jones, Mr Mark Lane LVO, Mr Graeme Maynard, Mr Rex Thornborough RD FCSI, Mrs Paula Tomlinson, Mrs Annabel Ward

**Hon Legal Adviser** Mr Vivian Robinson QC

**Hon Independent Examiner** Mr John Clark FCA

### **Trustees**

Mr William B Fraser OBE, Mrs Marjorie Dowbiggin, Mr Rex Thornborough RD FCSI, Mr Alistair Gould, Mrs Mandy Kidd

**THE CHARITABLE PURPOSE** of the MPGA is the protection, preservation and enhancing of public gardens, disused burial grounds, churchyards and open spaces or land situated within the Metropolitan Area of Greater London; the provision of seats and the planting of trees within places of public resort and the encouragement of public interest in the cultivation of gardens or similar public areas.

Edited by Annabel Ward

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Registered Charity Number 303330



## INTRODUCTION FROM PRESIDENT Hugh Johnson OBE

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I can just about imagine London without its plane trees, but it's not a pretty thought - or sight.

Not just the monumental, almost Jurassic-looking monsters of Berkeley, Portman, Cavendish and all the other 18th century squares and parks, but the familiar creatures of so many streets, shading us in summer, and all year round either complementing lovely buildings or screening untoward ones.

Not that London is the only city to rely on them. Almost every great city in Europe and many further afield knows their incomparable qualities. Knows them so well, in fact, that it can easily take them for granted.

**Since the happy accidental marriage of the oriental and the American planes that produced this magnificent hybrid in the 18th century, we have come to rely on planes as the default city tree, the prince of city trees, the apparently almost immortal one.**

**It is scary then, to learn that their good health can't be taken for granted anymore.**

There is a disease going around, or rather a fungus, that can make their vast far-reaching branches fall off. It appears as a black stain on the upper side of a branch, and can rot right through it. Several mighty trees in the Royal Parks have already had to be felled. The vision of a London without planes, or many fewer, is not make-believe.

There was a timely conference at City Hall in July to pool knowledge and ideas. So far no positive solution has come to light. What are we to learn from this? That we must speed up our tree-planting, not of such small short-lived trees as cherries, but of full-scale, long-living trees; monsters for the twenty second century. It is good to see the first signs of a renaissance of the elms. You can see a row of a disease-resistant clone just south of Kensington Palace. Once there were almost as many elms as planes in the parks. We urgently need them again.



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

### William Fraser OBE

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On retiring from the Diplomatic Service in 1877, Lord Meath became an important philanthropist concentrating on social issues of the day. In 1882, he founded the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association (MPGA) in which he served as Chairman for over 40 years. During that time he also became the first Chairman of the London County Council's Open Spaces and Parks Committee.

The following two extracts are taken from the Chairman's Report in the MPGA Accounts of 1885:

*"There is no lack of scope for your exertions; the fields in the suburbs are fast disappearing and their places are being filled with houses and monotonous streets ..."*

*"Every inhalation of air is laden with dust, grit and dirt ..."*

Is there a very familiar ring to these statements? Even then Lord Meath recognised the dreadful and increasing pollution in London's air. He understood the importance of preserving, maintaining and developing open spaces for the good of the community.

We in the MPGA are just as passionate now about preserving and maintaining open spaces. We continue to face very similar challenges to those prevalent in our Founder's time. The need for these green sites is perhaps even greater today due to the enormous increase in London's population and the fact that so many live

in high rise blocks of flats with very little or no outside space to sit, relax and enjoy the benefits of a garden or an open space.

Lord Meath was far ahead of his time, in his warnings about air pollution and one wonders how he would feel about the level of pollution in London today. We should all recognise that there are things we can do to help improve London's air quality and we know that trees, gardens and open spaces make a very important contribution.

The 2015 Report of the London i-Tree Eco Project "*Valuing London's Urban Forest*", highlighted the value of London trees which remove annually 2,241 tonnes of pollution worth £126m. Trees also store 2.4m tonnes of carbon and sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to reduce the impact of climate change. This is equivalent to the carbon produced from 26 billion vehicle miles. One wonders why certain local authorities are removing trees and all too often not replacing them.

Other worrying trends are the increase in the number of front gardens being paved over to provide off street parking and allotment sites being eyed by planners and others for a variety of purposes. It seems no space is now sacrosanct.

Fortunately we are beginning to realise the benefits of encouraging wild life by planting hedgerows, perennial plants and shrubs to create much brighter areas and at the same time much healthier places in which to relax and enjoy life. On our part, we have given around 30 grants to a wide variety



Thornton Heath Community Garden,  
LB Croydon

of green sites across London. Details of how to apply for a grant, together with a grant application form, can be found on our website [www.mpga.org.uk](http://www.mpga.org.uk)

Another scheme, which we know brings much pleasure to London's residents and visitors, is our *Bulbs for London* initiative, in which we are partnered by Taylors Bulbs. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Taylors Bulbs for their continuing support and Shirley Brihi for organising everything from our end.

We continue to be thankful for the support from *Bulldog Tools* and *The Worshipful Company of Gardeners* and we in turn continue our support for *Open Garden Squares Weekend*, *London in Bloom* and *London City Farms & Community Gardens Festival*, where we award two prizes annually.

I also acknowledge with grateful thanks two individual donations which we received during the year.

In July 2018, we were delighted to appoint Mandy Kidd as our new Honorary

Secretary. I thank her for taking up this position with great enthusiasm and for the efficient contribution she is making to the Association.

I also thank our President in particular and our Vice Presidents for their continued support and advice which is very much appreciated. Finally, to all members of the Executive Committee, I offer my thanks for their enthusiasm, time and advice.

I can't finish without mentioning the First World War Centenary, which took place last year. An interesting account of our grants at that time and more recent contributions can be found later in the Report.



The Worshipful Company  
of Gardeners



We would like to record our thanks to Committee Member Vivien Robinson QC for his invaluable help in establishing our Data Protection Policy. For charities such as ours, the work involved in ensuring that we were in full accord with the Act was daunting, but the pro bono advice provided by Vivien Robinson was invaluable.

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

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The 136th Annual General Meeting of the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association was held on Tuesday 2nd October 2019 at Nomura International plc, One Angel Lane, London EC4.

The Chairman, William Fraser OBE, welcomed those present and thanked Nomura for the use of a superb suite at their London headquarters and for allowing us access to their prizewinning rooftop garden, both of which have outstanding views of Tower Bridge, the River and surroundings. Several London Mayors were present as well as representatives from various horticultural and heritage organisations and Friends Groups. The Chairman also congratulated Waltham Forest for being chosen as the London Borough of Culture.

**He followed on by saying that since its founding in the 1880s, the MPGA has recognised the value of open spaces for rest, relaxation and social interaction.**

These concepts are more relevant today, especially with increasing concerns regarding our environment, the loss of trees and air quality.

The Chairman then thanked Roger Taylor on behalf of Taylors Bulbs for once again supplying the bulbs for our joint initiative 'Bulbs for London' and Shirley Brihi for organising their distribution. The generous support of Taylors Bulbs is widely appreciated.



*Nomura Roof Garden by courtesy of Diana Jarvis*

Finally it was confirmed that the Trustees had endorsed the reappointment of the Chairman (William Fraser) and Treasurer (Marjorie Dowbiggin), as well as the appointment of the new Secretary (Mandy Kidd). The Officers and Committee Members stood for election and were re-elected with Nicholas Evans elected as a new Committee member. The Chairman expressed his delight that The Marchioness of Salisbury had been appointed as a Vice President and that the long association with her family is continuing.

President Hugh Johnson OBE then spoke about the current threats to public parks caused by budget cuts and the risk of land being sold off. He stressed the importance of the MPGA being involved and supporting relevant campaigns. It was then time for him to present the London Spade. He explained the history behind the Award, which has been given annually since 1970 to a person or organisation making an outstanding



contribution to London's green spaces. This year's recipient was Christopher Woodward, Director of the widely acclaimed Garden Museum. His hard work, enthusiasm, knowledge and inspiration led to the very successful redevelopment of the building, which has given London a Museum of which we can all be very proud.

It seemed fitting to ask Christopher to be our guest speaker this year and we were well rewarded as his talk on the theme of optimism was fascinating and very inspirational. He believes there are many reasons to be optimistic, despite some depressing stories of vandalism and crime within our green spaces. Christopher went on to give some examples of these: good public spaces provided by private developers such as Berkeley Homes at Kidbrooke Village; the regeneration of public parks, such as Sarah Price's replanting of the Old English Garden in Victoria Park; guerilla gardening, such as the Lauriston Road roundabout in Hackney, and private response to public spaces, such as the creation of shrines e.g. in Clissold Park.

On the downside, he warned that English Heritage was failing to protect the environment, resulting in pressure on local authorities. Spaces are not created by chance and he believes there needs to



*The London Spade Award presented to Christopher Woodward, Director of the Garden Museum, by Hugh Johnson OBE*

be a financial mechanism through commerce to create more public space.

The Chairman commended Christopher on his excellent talk and thanked the President for his contribution and support, as well as the Vice Presidents and Executive Committee. He also thanked the MPGA's sponsors including Taylors Bulbs, Bulldog Tools, the Worshipful Company of Gardeners. The Chairman concluded the meeting on a positive note, mentioning that new City of London skyscrapers must have gardens with

public access. He also emphasised the importance that the MPGA and all those involved in maintaining open spaces for the community, continue to work together to create one strong voice.



*Mark Waleski, Manager St. James' Park with Vice President Wesley Kerr*



**MPGA  
GRANTS  
2018**

## CHURCHES & CHURCHYARDS

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### St Paul's Church

London Borough of Camden

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St Paul's Church, Camden approached the MPGA for funds to transform an area of much neglected woodland, bordered by mature plane and lime trees interspersed with hedging, into a woodland garden. This restored woodland will offer vulnerable people, including hospital in-patients with severe mental health issues, an opportunity to engage in gardening and conservation activities in their local community. Crucially it engages them in developing and maintaining a neglected part of St Paul's churchyard with other members of the local community. With the MPGA grant, the project is well on its way to completion.



*St. Paul's Churchyard, LB Camden*

## COMMUNITY GARDENS

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### Albany Gardens

London Borough of Lewisham

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Three planters were purchased with funding from the MPGA, and with the unpredictable rise in temperatures during February, the weekly gardening club began



*Albany Garden Polyunnel, LB Lewisham*

planting. Students with learning difficulties from Lewisham Southwark College (LeSoCo) took part in their first gardening workshop of the term, and planted the new beds with chives, blackcurrants and strawberries, before sowing nasturtiums in the polytunnels to plant out later on during Spring. The Albany Garden attracts many visitors who engage with the garden, asking questions about food growing and are interested in getting involved with the gardening club on a more regular basis.

### Cody Dock

London Borough of Newham

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The Gasworks Dock Partnership applied for funds to transform a neglected woodland in the Cody Road Business Park, creating a wildlife corridor in between two businesses, and encouraging respect for the environment in an area where fly tipping is a problem. Staff from the neighbouring businesses have committed to help maintain the site, alongside regular Cody Dock community volunteers. Plans included a new boardwalk path, seating areas, reed bed and wildlife habitat, and the MPGA were happy to provide funding for the boardwalk and planting.

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## Corsica Street Garden

London Borough of Islington

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An unusual project for the MPGA to fund, Corsica Street Garden is a narrow strip of land running alongside a road in Islington which has been tended by a local resident for over 20 years. It is maintained to provide some attractive planting for those who walk by and to discourage fly tipping which had previously plagued the site. The garden has won many awards for community gardening over the years. Following some thoughtless vandalism by contractors that destroyed plants and smashed trellises, the MPGA were happy to make a contribution towards some replacement planting.



*Corsica Street Garden, LB Islington*

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## Gipsy Hill Station

London Borough of Southwark

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MPGA funding was used to buy some new planters and plants for the community garden at this station. The grant was used to buy some robust and stylish wooden planters to go on colourfully painted planter

stands. The planters were then filled with edibles including a pear tree, red and blackcurrants, blueberries, raspberries and garlic with alpine strawberries to follow. The staff at Gipsy Hill station have had a huge amount of positive feedback, and on volunteer working days, numerous people have stopped to say how fantastic it is that a community garden is being created here.



*Gipsy Hill Station garden, LB Southwark*

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## Frensbury Garden

London Borough of Lewisham

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Frensbury Garden was reclaimed from wasteland next to a train line and has been nurtured for over 10 years to become a vibrant and thriving community resource. The Friends asked for funds to improve the planting by adding sensory garden areas, and the MPGA were happy to support their application. Volunteers were involved in the preparation, planting and maintenance



*Frensbury Garden, LB Lewisham*

of the new areas, which as well as sensory plants also included herbs and fruit bushes. Advertising the planting days on social media encouraged new volunteers from the local community to get involved. In addition to enhancement for human visitors to the garden, the Friends have noticed an increase in invertebrates and pollinating insects.

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## Pinner Village Gardens

London Borough of Harrow

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With their grant, the Friends Group were able to purchase three wheelchair inclusive, recycled plastic picnic tables and seats. Previously there was little seating available in the gardens, and upon installation, these picnic benches were warmly received and put to use immediately. The Friends have noticed that these picnic tables have encouraged more visits from families, who tend to stay in the gardens for longer. The tables have also enhanced the social aspect of the gardens, encouraging local residents to enjoy the space and spend more time outside in the community.



*Pinner Village Gardens, LB Harrow*

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## Olden Gardens

London Borough of Islington

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This well-established community garden has turned a derelict council yard and railway embankment into a green haven in a heavily populated part of north Islington, close to the Arsenal football stadium. Its two acres include an acre of woodland, a small orchard, a small meadow strip,

two vegetable terraces and an attractive herbaceous garden. Run by volunteers with some help from professional gardeners, a proper working space was lacking. The MPGA contributed funds towards the provision of a viable work area with wheelchair access, which will eventually include a potting shed and greenhouse. With enthusiasm, the gardeners are currently planning how this will be used for their horticultural and educational purposes when the subsequent phases are completed.

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## Poets' Corner Community Garden

London Borough of Tower Hamlets

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Poets' Corner Community Garden is a dedicated piece of land where residents work together and in the process build relationships and a strong feeling of community. The group was created in order to turn a neglected site, which was wildly overgrown, into a vivid garden for local residents. The garden is located in the heart of Bethnal Green, a dense urban area where many families live in overcrowded conditions with no access to a garden. The MPGA grant enabled the group to add variety to the garden. The garden now has areas in it focussed on herbs, cacti, ferns, scented climbers, berries and perennials. This increase in biodiversity is invaluable for their little local ecosystem.



*Poets' Corner Community Garden, LB Tower Hamlets*

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## Thornton Heath Community Garden

London Borough of Croydon

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Thornton Heath Community Garden is one of the few green spaces in the north of the borough and, as such, is a valued local resource with a bowling club, wildflower meadow and small orchard. A Friends Group was established in 2007, and volunteers now work in partnership with the Council Parks Service to maintain and improve the site. This year the group approached the MPGA for the funds to purchase ornamental plants for a new series of decorative beds in the high-traffic areas between the bowling green and the wildflower meadow. We were pleased to grant this application and the work was carried out to a high standard, significantly enhancing the enjoyment of regular users of the garden.



Thornton Heath Community Garden,  
LB Croydon

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## HISTORIC HOUSES & GARDENS

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### Pitzhanger Manor

London Borough of Ealing

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Pitzhanger Manor in Ealing was built by renowned architect Sir John Soane, who also laid out the grounds in a style designed to complement the building whilst supplying the household with sufficient produce. In 2012, a Trust was established to support Ealing Council in the restoration and development of this property to 'transform Pitzhanger into a landmark cultural institution', including a 'visitor-focused horticultural space' that would be freely open to all visitors. The MPGA provided the funding to purchase a collection of significant trees, including *Cedrus libani*, *Cercis siliquastrum* and *Ginkgo biloba* which form a key ornamental element within the revived Kitchen Garden.



Pitzhanger Manor, LB Ealing

# HOSPICES

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## St. Christopher's Hospice

London Borough of Bromley

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Following a grant from MPGA, the St Christopher's volunteers have been able to transform the garden which had been largely neglected over recent years. The main improvements have been the complete replanting of a central flower bed, to bring colour and sensory value to patients, as well as filling in sparse hedges and planting new apple trees.

The garden is now a place of enjoyment for the patients and their families, as well as a relaxed place where important conversations can be held.



*Photos courtesy of St. Christopher's Hospice (LB Bromley)*

# LIBRARIES

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## Willesden Green

London Borough of Brent

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The Willesden Green Town Team were granted funds by the MPGA to improve an underused and uninviting large open space next to Willesden Green Library. Large planters provide barriers to vehicles

that used to use the paved pathways as shortcuts, thus making the area safer as well as more attractive. Each planter contains a fruit tree, including apple, pear, plum, cherry, nectarine, apricot and kiwi. These are underplanted with herbs associated with healing, and other plants that have been specially chosen to attract bees and butterflies. The new planting helps to combat pollution from traffic at this busy junction, and provides an environment where library users and passers-by can linger and enjoy the setting.



*Willesden Green, LB Brent*

# MUSEUMS

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## Horniman Museum

London Borough of Lambeth

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The MGA supported a colour wheel flower bed display for the Horniman's Sunken Garden. Students from Capel Manor College came for a day on two consecutive weeks to prepare the bed by removing weeds, fertilising and raking the soil. Some



*Horniman Museum's Colour Wheel Flower Bed, LB Lambeth*

temporary interpretation next to the flower bed connected the floral display to the exhibition on 'Colour' within the museum. The museum's team of garden volunteers maintained the beds through the summer, deadheading and weeding them, and feedback from visitors was overwhelmingly positive.

## Leighton House Museum

Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea

Leighton House Museum near Holland Park, formerly the home of eminent Victorian artist Lord Frederic Leighton, has a garden which until recently suffered from erratic maintenance. Three years ago a group of volunteers began the systematic restoration of the grounds, including a Fountain Garden designed around a white marble fountain which had been uncovered near the house. The MPGA was pleased to finance the purchase of four bay tree cones in terracotta pots, a quantity of choice *Hedera* 'Rhombea' and hard edging materials to allow this area to be finished with a symmetrical formality appropriate to the high Victorian garden style which compliments the unique architecture of this house.



*Leighton House, RB Kensington & Chelsea*

## PARKS

### Mint Street Park

London Borough of Southwark

Mint Street Park, close to the Thames in north Southwark, is a vibrant space of almost a hectare maintained by the Bankside Open Spaces Trust. It includes an outdoor gym, a newly refurbished community performance stage, ornamental planting and a grassy area for sports and recreation. The MPGA was pleased to fund the restoration of an extensive rockery, which frames the community stage but in recent years had degenerated significantly. This grant enabled a group of ten volunteers to enhance the rockery with new slates and plant an extensive collection of drought-tolerant cultivars which had been carefully selected to survive in this free-draining site.



*Mint Street Park Rockery, LB Southwark*

### Beverley Park

Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames

Beverley Park was first laid out in the 1890s and since then residents of the New Malden area have come to depend on this extensive site with its pavilion, tennis courts, open grassy areas and rose garden. Today it is particularly popular with dog walkers, young families, the elderly, people with disabilities and sports enthusiasts. Although one side of this park is well provided with benches,



there were none at the end adjoining the sports field when the Friends Group approached the MPGA for support. We were able to provide funding for a new bench which now serves as a popular staging post for weary-legged users of the park, and has received a number of positive and supportive comments on the Friends of Beverley Park Facebook Group page.



*Beverley Park, LB Kingston-upon-Thames*

## SCHOOLS

### Comber Grove Primary School London Borough of Southwark

In 2018, Comber Grove Primary School applied to the MPGA for funds to transform a small area within the school into a vegetable and fruit garden. Ten raised bed containers had already been put in place. Raised beds specially chosen so that all children, staff, parents and local community volunteers, regardless of their abilities, could easily work on them. In this way, parents and local volunteers as well as staff are able to share their skills with the children. The MPGA was pleased to supply two essentials: the compost-based soil needed to fill the ten containers and a long hosepipe to meet their watering needs.

### Elsley Primary School London Borough of Brent

Elsley Primary School is a large school in Wembley, a built up area of north west London which is in a transitional phase. There are currently 600 children on the roll and by 2022 this will have increased to around 900 pupils. A new building is being constructed to accommodate this growth. Such a time of transition brings new opportunities. In the old school there was no designated space for creating raised beds for the classes. However, there are small grassy patches outside the new building at various locations which were used as sites for 10 raised beds: two of which are reserved for parents and the community with the eight remaining beds for the children. Each year group takes ownership of their bed and keep it as their responsibility while at the school. The MPGA was happy to fund the purchase of the 10 raised beds.



*Parents gardening at Elsley Primary School, LB Brent*

### Flora Gardens Primary School London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

All classes from Reception through to Year 6 were involved in this project and were given different areas to plant across the school site, involving around 175 children, as well as staff to support them. A mixture of bulbs and seeds were planted, and as the summer

approached, the wooden troughs purchased through MPGA funding were in full bloom. The children were tasked with watering the troughs on a daily basis, especially during the dry, sunny weather. The Summer Fair was held before the end of term and many of the parents and visitors commented on how colourful the school was looking.

### Torridon Infants School

London Borough of Lewisham

The school has a part time gardener who required the necessary tools to adequately tend to their grounds which include a pond, flower beds and a wildlife garden. The funding was used to purchase a range of equipment including a ladder, a shed, and various garden implements, and was match funded by the adjoining Junior School.

### Isaac Newton Academy

London Borough of Redbridge

Isaac Newton is an all-through, non-denominational, non-selective school, located in Seven Kings, an area with nearly a quarter of children living in poverty. It is part of the educational charity ARK's network of 38 Schools in the UK. One of the school's objectives is to equip the children with key horticultural skills and help foster an appreciation for nature. The Academy approached the MPGA for funding specific items for a particular project: the development of nature areas and growing



*Planters made from recycled tyres, Isaac Newton Academy, LB Redbridge*

spaces around the schools. The MPGA granted the School funds to purchase the items requested, including sheds which were placed in a location mutually convenient for all these garden/nature areas.

### Highbury Quadrant School

London Borough of Islington

A grant from the MPGA for planting helped the school to improve two areas: their wildlife garden and the playgrounds used by the children aged 5 to 7. Native woodland plants now thrive amongst the trees in the wildlife garden, and more drought-tolerant plants fill new raised beds in the tarmac playground. The grant has had a very positive effect on the school; bringing colour and wildlife into the environment and softening the hard landscape, while also teaching children about plants and imbuing them with a love of gardening. It gave 200 children the experience of growing their own flowers from bulbs – something they still talk about.



*Highbury Quadrant School, LB Islington*

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## Phoenix Primary and Secondary School

London Borough of Tower Hamlets

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Phoenix Primary and Secondary School, a registered charity, is a Special School within Tower Hamlets. It caters for children with severe language and communications difficulties and has a multi-ethnic population which reflects the diversity of the borough. Horticulture and outdoor learning are strong and proven elements of their curriculum activities. It received an award from London in Bloom as Best Educational Establishment. With their pupil roll increasing every year, the Phoenix School created an annex for 20 pupils within a local mainstream primary school. In order for their pupils to continue having access to the Horticultural element of their education, the school transformed a rundown outdoor area of the annex into a horticultural space, with an additional on-site area for their pupils to engage with their mainstream peers in a safe and specially tailored learning environment. Artificial grass was installed with raised beds containing free standing pots and wooden barrels placed on top. The MPGA was approached for a grant and funded the purchase of planters and planting. In the Summer term, the project was completed.



*Phoenix Primary & Secondary School,  
LB Tower Hamlets*

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## ADDITIONAL AWARDS

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### Open Garden Squares Weekend

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During June, more than 200 gardens - many of which are usually closed to the public - took part in what has become London's foremost garden visiting event. From the seed of an idea planted in the early 1990's, OGSW celebrated its 21st anniversary with gardens participating across 27 London boroughs. Supported by London Parks & Gardens Trust, this annual event gives access to many private and 'secret' gardens ranging from the historic and traditional to the new and experimental.



*Cody Dock, Canning Town LB Newham*

Last year approximately 21,000 people visited OGSW benefiting from the discovery of new outdoor green spaces in London and exploring different ways of enjoying them. Relaxing in the natural open places tucked away on rooftops, in allotments and behind schools, shops and institutions, visitors can see the work of volunteers who work to research, protect and cherish these spaces.

New gardens participating for the first time included 49 Bankside, Cody Dock, Cannon Bridge Roof Gardens, The Worshipful Company of Stationers & Newspaper

Makers, Victoria Hall – the Institute of Ismaili Studies and Wildcat Wilderness in Catford. The Skip Garden at King’s Cross is a community garden which is unique as it is moveable and everything is built by using recycled materials.

The Trust is a not for profit charity and the continuing support of MPGA is vital to enable them to concentrate their aims to cultivate, celebrate and champion London’s green spaces.



*The Skip Garden, Kings Cross LB Camden  
Photo by Diana Jarvis*

## London City Farms & Community Gardens

London City Farms & Community Gardens is the largest such network in the country, and is a vibrant community of committed staff, volunteers and young participants, many of whom are from troubled or under-



*Phoenix Farm, LB Tower Hamlets*

privileged backgrounds. For some years, the MPGA have sponsored two awards at the organisation’s annual Harvest Festival which this year was held at Woodlands Farm in Greenwich, south east London, and attracted over 1,300 visitors and participants. Committee member Jodie Jones was delighted to represent the MPGA on the day, handing over prizes for the Best Display from a garden at a City Farm won by Phoenix Farm and the Best Display from a Community Garden awarded to Mudlarks Community Garden.

## London in Bloom

London in Bloom is part of the RHS Britain in Bloom competition. It has enjoyed 52 years in London and still remains a powerful force for positive change. London in Bloom Awards are given to celebrate the efforts of London’s boroughs, communities, businesses and individuals who do so much to make London such a special place to live, work and visit. The aim of these Awards is to encourage community involvement, caring for our environment and to maintain our precious Green Spaces as priorities within local authorities.



*Wimbledon Common, LB Merton*

In 2018, MPGA continued its support for London in Bloom with a donation and sponsorship of its 'Common of the Year Prize', won by Wimbledon Common, Merton and 'Heritage Park and Garden of the Year' jointly won by Chiswick House & Gardens Trust, Hounslow and Eltham Palace, Greenwich.



Chiswick House & Gardens, LB Hounslow



Eltham Palace, LB Greenwich

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## 'Our Space' Project

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Towards the end of 2018, we were contacted by Dave Morris of the London Friends of Green Spaces Network (LFGN) who was seeking funding towards their joint venture with CPRE London. This subsequently launched on 26 January

2019. The aim of 'Our Space' was to improve communications between London's many Friends Groups and their umbrella organisation, LFGN. This included improving their website and newsletter and also organising various projects, such as exchange visits between Friends Groups to enable them to pool their knowledge and discuss their common problems. The MPGA was happy to make a donation towards the scheme, as we well appreciate the importance of this initiative and the value of supporting the various Friends Groups across the Capital. London very much relies on these groups of dedicated volunteers, as do we when it comes to our own projects - especially the 'Bulbs for London' initiative.

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## Christchurch Spitalfields

London Borough of Tower Hamlets

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We were asked by Christine Whaite, on behalf of Christchurch Spitalfields, to support a second appeal against a new large illegal building being allowed to remain within Spitalfields churchyard. Initially it seemed unlikely to us that the Court would rescind their previous decision. However, when we learned that important new evidence had come to light, we were delighted to make a contribution towards the cost of mounting a second appeal. We have been involved in this very important historic church, designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor in 1714, since 1892 when we laid out the grounds. Christchurch is one of our 'Gardens under Threat' and there is further information on page 26. *As we have now been advised, the result of the appeal, which came through in 2019, was a victory for the tenacity of all those involved.*

## BULBS FOR LONDON

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When the Bulbs for London applications come flooding in during November, we never know who is going to apply! However, the demand is always extremely high for the superb bulbs generously donated by Taylors Bulbs of Holbeach, who again this year swept the board at Chelsea.

As ever, we were surprised by the diversity of the applications which came from all four corners of London and included squares, schools, hospices, nature reserves, community gardens, parks, streetscapes and even railway stations. In addition, we had requests from several of London's historic houses namely Osterley Park, Chiswick House, Strawberry Hill in Twickenham, the home of the Horace Walpole, and Down House in Bromley, the home of the renowned Charles Darwin. Bulbs also went to the National Maritime Museum, the Museum of Brands and Leighton House, all of which are open to the public and well worth a visit.

We marked the First World War centenary year by providing bulbs to five War Memorial Gardens. These were Kensington Memorial Park, Pinner Memorial Park, St. John at Hackney, Island Gardens in Tower Hamlets and Elm Park

Remembrance Square in Havering. We also had a request from the Grenfell Memorial Garden and were pleased to be able to send bulbs to them in memory of the victims of the disaster.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that there is an army of volunteers working across London and many of our applications come from Friends Groups.



*Saint Francis Hospice (LB Havering)*

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They not only organise the planting of the bulbs but also look after all aspects of their parks or gardens. We know from them that the bulbs have a tremendous impact in their locality and make a big difference to the wellbeing of their communities. We receive many heartfelt messages and letters of appreciation, as well as some beautiful photographs.

All in all 100 parks, gardens and green sites benefitted from the generosity of Taylors Bulbs, who again this year provided and distributed the bulbs totally free of charge.

Since 2012, the partnership between the MPGA and Taylors has enhanced over 750 green spaces across London. May we take this opportunity of saying a huge thank you to Taylors on behalf of all of us at the MPGA and, of course, the grateful bulb recipients.



*John Innes Park (LB Merton)*



*Myddleton Square (LB Islington)*

## FIRST WORLD WAR CENTENARY

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2018, being the centenary, saw huge coverage of the First World War and looking back at our Annual Reports for this period makes interesting reading.

We gave grants to a wide variety of war related projects. For example, there was an urgent demand for seats at convenient points near military hospitals, where “wounded and crippled” soldiers congregated while waiting for transport. In 1917 alone we gave grants for 16 seats, all of which were plainly marked ‘for the use of wounded soldiers’. Seats for munition workers were also provided by us, mainly in the Erith and Belvedere areas. The MPGA also helped to secure admission to a number of Garden Squares for soldiers on leave.

To mitigate the widespread food shortages, the MPGA were instrumental in helping to convert several public parks, gardens and squares for the growing of vegetables. We read that our then Secretary, Basil Holmes, arranged for the disused burial ground of St George’s in Bayswater Road to be placed in the hands of the Church Army, who created 100 allotment spaces for producing food, with excellent results.

After the war, many memorial gardens were set up in London, to which we gave grants. Our most significant contribution was to the Wimbledon War Memorial Garden at Putney Vale (now know as the Richard Evans Playing Fields). The scheme was designed by Madeline Agar, who was our Landscape Gardener at the beginning of the Twentieth Century. We also funded the trees for this garden, which was formally opened to the public by our Vice Chairman on 15 July 1925.

In 2018, we commemorated the centenary year by providing bulbs to five WW1 Memorial Gardens, namely Kensington

Memorial Park, Pinner Memorial Park, St John at Hackney, Island Gardens in Tower Hamlets and Elm Park Remembrance Square in Havering.

## VISIT TO BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDEN, 13 SEPTEMBER 2018

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On a beautiful September afternoon we were very fortunate to be guests at Buckingham Palace Gardens, with the gracious permission of The Queen, following an invitation from Mark Lane, the Head Gardener at the Palace and Clarence House. Mark is also a very valued member of our Committee. We were given a wonderful private tour of the garden by Mark and our group of around 30 included our President, Vice Presidents, Chairman, Committee Members, Supporters and Volunteers.

The first surprise on walking into the garden is to realise its size, covering as it does 39 acres, with wonderful views over the lake in one direction and across the lawns to the Palace in the other. The landscape is dominated by the London Plane tree, which provides welcome respite against the urban heat. There are also many other species, including Himalayan Birches and Snake Bark Maples which give some winter interest.

Mark began our walk along the famous 156 metre herbaceous border, which was packed with a wide variety of plants. He pointed out some early flowers and it was easy to imagine the potential of the border which is required to flower from early May to mid October.

As we walked along the Serpentine Path lined with Spring flowering shrubs, Camellias, Rhododendrons and Azaleas, we came to the rose garden which was laid out with 25 beds and, judging by the official photographs, makes a tremendous display in summer. We then meandered along the





*Mark Lane (front) with members of the MPGA group*

edge of the lake, taking in the lawns and patches of camomile, before arriving on the main lawn where The Queen hosts her famous Garden Parties.

Mark mentioned that The Queen takes an enormous interest in her garden and on several occasions has accepted a tree from the MPGA to commemorate the major anniversaries in her reign, including the Magnolia 'Butterflies' tree presented for her Golden Jubilee in 2002 and more recently the Elm 'Ulmus Nanguen' for her Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Prior to this, we gave a *Morus latifolia* 'Spirata' to The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh in celebration of their Golden Wedding in 1998. Although

our archives are not quite complete, we have ascertained that in 1957 her Majesty accepted two trees, namely a *Davidia involuctata* var. *vilmoriniana* for Prince Charles and a *Prunus avium* for Princess Anne.

As we walked around, Mark made the visit extremely interesting by giving us a potted history and details of the many aspects of the garden and we all benefitted from his horticultural expertise. After our interesting and relaxing walk, we concluded our two hour tour with, fittingly, a very welcome cup of tea and cake in the cafeteria overlooking the Garden, where we chatted and marvelled at this exceptional oasis in the heart of London.

## 2019 UPDATE

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### Archives

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Our archive is very scattered, especially when it comes to our Annual Reports. Many of these are in the Guildhall Library and the British Library, but some have been found at other British libraries and even as far afield as the US. For anyone researching the historic gardens of London, it can make their work very time consuming.

In order for our database to be truly useful, it is essential that we have a complete set of Annual Reports. To this end Leanne Newman, another very capable volunteer, has been helping to track these down. To date we have found nearly all the early Reports – there are still two missing. However, our main concern is twelve missing Reports, covering the years 1975 to 1986. We have made numerous enquiries to trace these, but so far to no avail. However, we still have one or two lines of enquiry to follow.

### Blog

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We are delighted to report that Marc Owen is still writing blogs on our behalf and, despite a very heavy workload this year, wrote an excellent blog on the Inner Temple Garden. This is the tenth London garden that Marc has featured on our website and it is a task he really enjoys. His blogs make very interesting reading and can be found on line at Marc's Favourite Gardens or on our website [www.mpga.org.uk](http://www.mpga.org.uk).

Marc's latest blog is on the Garden Museum, the venue for this year's AGM, and gives an interesting overview on the museum and its gardens.

### Database

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Following on from last year, we are delighted to report that considerable progress has been made on the database. A great deal of work has been carried out by our volunteer Dr Hazel Russman, a retired database specialist, who, apart from entering the data from our Annual Reports, has given us very valuable guidance and help in this connection.

Although initially we were advised by IT specialist Matt Eglin, due to his very heavy workload, unfortunately he was not able to give further time to the project. It was therefore decided to consult our webmaster, Justin Swabey, who has picked up the reins and is taking this forward for us.

The database is proving to be very challenging, but on completion we will be in possession of a very important historical record for London.

### Twitter

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We continue to build up our Twitter account. We now have over 950 followers and through Twitter have made a number of very good contacts and new friends in the gardening world. Meanwhile, we encourage all parks and gardens with whom we come into contact to join the wonderful world of Twitter.

It is an excellent way of keeping abreast not only of the major London events, but also those in local parks – including their successes, problems and threats. Through social media, many communities have had wide coverage and attracted the public to their events.

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## Blue Plaque Application

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We are pleased to announce that we have recently heard from English Heritage with regard to our Blue Plaque application, which we proposed be erected at 6 Gower Street for Fanny Wilkinson. As mentioned last year, Fanny was the first female professional Landscape Gardener in England and was employed by our Founder, Lord Meath, in 1884. She worked for the MPGA for 20 years, during which time she designed more than 74 public gardens in London. We have been advised that the Blue Plaque Panel has shortlisted Fanny Wilkinson for commemoration. This entails further investigation on their part, after which it will be presented to their Panel for final approval, which we understand may take a year or more. However, this is a huge step in the right direction for getting recognition for Fanny Wilkinson and the part she played in the history of London's gardens.

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## Fairchild's Garden

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The MPGA are delighted to report that after six years the Fairchild Garden project is finally coming to fruition. Our thanks to Committee Member Rex Thornborough, who has represented the Association and followed events closely. In February, Hackney Council appointed Ares Landscape Architects to produce a preliminary design report, as a result of which a public consultation took place. An intermediate design plan was recently agreed and it is hoped that work will commence in 2020, with the final planting scheme paying tribute to Thomas Fairchild's work, as outlined in his book 'The City Gardener'.

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## National Park City

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We strongly supported the **National Park City** initiative, which came to fruition with the signing of its Charter by the Mayor, Sadiq Khan, on 22 July. This is key to making London a city where people, places and nature are better connected and the Mayor said that a greener future was central to his vision of London. He went on to say that when a national park becomes a national park city, its land, people and wildlife do not change over night but with time imaginations, hopes, desires, expectations, relationships, decisions and actions shift and evolve into something new. Although we know there will be no immediate miracles, we are very much hoping that now London is officially a **National Park City** that we will see some significant changes.

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## GARDENS AND GREEN SPACES UNDER THREAT

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At the last AGM, our President Hugh Johnson stressed the importance of the MPGA being involved in supporting relevant campaigns against cuts and planning threats. Our Chairman, William Fraser, in his introduction this year has called on the leading London organisations to come together to defend the green belt and threats from developers.

Many of London's gardening organisations echo our concern at the loss of green space in the Capital. As was pointed out recently by CPRE, there are over 30 parks and green spaces currently under threat. Another point often highlighted, most recently by Fields in Trust, suggests that regular users of parks and green spaces are likely to be healthier and save the NHS more than £111 million a year. It is not possible for us to follow all the sites under threat in London, but those mentioned are some which have been drawn to our attention.

**Christ Church Spitalfields** is a very important historic site with which we have been involved since 1892. Last year, we supported their second appeal against a Judicial Court ruling that had allowed a large, illegal, new building within the Spitalfields churchyard to remain. Earlier this year The Court of Arches, the Church Appeal Court, ruled that the building in the consecrated churchyard Public Open Space Trust area must be demolished and the Church has undertaken to restore the site of the building as public open space. Applications for a Judicial Review in support of the Public Open Space Trust have been renewed for a further period, to allow for a detailed and fully costed restoration programme to be formally agreed for this historic church.

**London's Green Belt** is again under attack. We know that almost all London councils are under pressure to build more housing and as a result the Government appointed Panel of Inspectors is debating whether to allow a review of the London Green Belt with a view to finding additional land for housing. The public examination has recently ended and the Inspectors will report to the Mayor shortly. The defence is being fronted by CPRE and has many supporters, including the London Green Belt Council and Save the Green Belt Campaign. Another supporter is the **Enfield Road Watch** which promotes the benefit of the Green Belt for future generations. Very active in Enfield, they keep a close eye on local planning matters and have recently launched a new social media campaign *I'm not a just a pretty place*, in conjunction with CPRE London, and ask followers to publicise the initiative on Twitter. CPRE have a new report which shows that we have enough brown field land for at least 1m homes, to tackle the housing crisis without unnecessary loss of our green space.

As reported last year, we have also been following the to plans to develop **Northfields Allotments** in Ealing, which date back to 1832. We are delighted to hear from the Friends that, after a very strong campaign,

the plans have been cancelled. London's oldest allotments now live on for the next generation!

**Manford Way Park** The press are calling this the David versus Goliath campaign, as the residents of Hainault are trying to stop Redbridge Council from building temporary accommodation on the Park (60 units of prefabricated modular housing for the homeless). The group are publicly urging the council to reconsider their plans and have reminded them that they are using council tax payers' money to fund their legal challenge.

**Jessell Green** is an accessible open space in the heart of the Debden Estate in Loughton, on which the Council wish to put over 150 homes. The community have said no. Hearing Sessions were held in July and it seems that the news is good. The Friends of Jessell Green head up a vibrant community and one prepared to fight to the bitter end to retain their green space.

**Twickenham Riverside Park** It seems that Richmond Council want more car parking and less park. An independent group of residents have appealed to Richmond Council to stop forcing through a development which threatens to destroy the quality of a unique site - the river front in the centre of Twickenham directly opposite Eel Pie Island with its historic boat yards. After a series of open consultations the residents believed that the Council was prepared to incorporate some of their requests. However the planning consent put forward has been a huge disappointment to residents. They feel that there has been no recognition of the history of this stretch of arcadia and there is very little economic or environmental benefit for the town.

**Highgate CCAAC** together with the **Friends of Millfield Lane Terrace** have mounted a petition against Camden Council's planning proposal to build a five house development near the borders of **Hampstead Heath**,

fronting directly onto the bird sanctuary pond. The Council is currently considering plans to demolish a single house and annex and replace this with five house with basements. The character and ecology of the surrounding area of the Heath is threatened.

**Hampton Court Rescue Campaign** group is working to protect the unique historic setting of Hampton Court Palace from unsuitable development at Hampton Court station and riverside. On 22 July the planning application for Hampton Court Station was reviewed and postponed again. The HCRC, founded in 2006, works tirelessly to bring issues such as these to a wider audience

**Udney Park**, which we have been following for the last two years, is a precious green space in Teddington, designated for amateur sport. The Friends have mounted an excellent campaign to ensure that the playing fields are not built on. As we know, school sport matters and since 2012 planning policy has been clear that playing fields must be retained. Many amenity groups, including Sport England, have been supportive, together with the England and Wales Cricket Board. The proposed private equity development of leasehold luxury flats would bring to an end 95 years of cricket playing in this area. Thankfully Richmond Council and the GLA have a strong policy to protect playing fields, which are absolutely sacrosanct. The benefits of sport for young people are too numerous to mention and we are optimistic that good sense will prevail.

**Save Lee Marshes** is a local campaign group which keep guard over a large area of important wildlife breeding grounds, which are part of the Lee Valley Regional Park. They have fought many battles in the past and are now concerned about the LVRPA's plans for a new enlarged ice rink at Leyton Marsh. Detailed plans for the ice rink have recently been revealed and the campaigners are worried that this development will encroach onto this very precious wildlife space.

Friends of **Dog Kennel Hill Wood** and other amenity groups are strongly opposed to a current planning application to build flats on the current DHFC stadium and to build a 4,000 capacity stadium on Greendale Fields (MOL). This is an encroachment on Metropolitan Open Land and will destroy a wild green space in Dulwich. Following on from a failed attempt in the past to build on Greendale, the developers are back with a new planning application and detailed plans have recently been revealed.

In last year's Report we highlighted the **Victoria Tower Gardens** planning application to erect a holocaust museum on its site, which has been very controversial, attracting a lot of comment on Twitter and in the press. Along with many others we are very much in favour of a museum in London, it is not thought to be in the right place. As we go to press, the news is that the application has been turned down by Westminster Council.

The campaign to stop the demolition of **Old Tidemill Wildlife Garden** and the adjoining Reginald House is ongoing, with no resolution at present. Geoff Northcott recently visited the garden for his television programme 'How the Middle Classes ruined Britain', which highlighted local strength of feeling and ingenuity of the local residents.

*See pictures on the following page.*

# GARDENS AND GREEN SPACES UNDER THREAT

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*Twickenham Riverside Park*



*Christchurch, Spitalfields*



*Victoria Tower Gardens*



*Old Tidemill Wildlife Garden*



**MPGA  
FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS**

**31 DECEMBER  
2018**

## Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 December 2018

Notes	Income £	Capital £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
Gross dividends received	12,620	-	12,620	12,114
Deposit account interest and Gift Aid interest	46	-	46	109
Subscriptions with Gift Aid Recoveries	13,081	-	13,081	2,387
Donations and subscriptions without Gift Aid	4,230	-	4,230	3,938
<b>Total Incoming resources</b>	<b>29,977</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>29,977</b>	<b>18,548</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
Grants, affiliation fees & London Spade	19,310	-	19,310	22,372
Annual General Meeting	2,484	-	2,484	2,382
Office expenses – incl. postage, stationery, travel and sundries	1,737	-	1,737	2,068
	<b>23,531</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,531</b>	<b>26,822</b>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing)</b>	<b>(6,446)</b>		<b>(6,446)</b>	<b>(8,274)</b>
Gains/(Losses) on investments		24,057	24,057	21,211
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(6,446)</b>	<b>24,057</b>	<b>17,611</b>	<b>12,937</b>
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2018	11,182	308,349	319,531	305,594
<b>Balances carried forward at 31 December 2018</b>	<b>17,628</b>	<b>284,292</b>	<b>301,920</b>	<b>319,531</b>

The notes on pages 4 to 5 form part of these accounts

**Independent Examiner's Report:** I have examined the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2018 from the books and records and information and explanations supplied to me. In my opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Association as at 31st December 2018 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year ended 31st December 2018.

**John Clark FCA Chartered Accountant**



## Balance Sheet

31 December 2017

**FIXED ASSETS**

Investments

**CURRENT ASSETS**

Debtors

Cash at bank and in hand

Total Current Assets

**CURRENT LIABILITIES**

Creditors

**NET CURRENT ASSETS****TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES***REPRESENTED BY:***Capital Fund****Accumulated Income Fund****TOTAL FUNDS**

Notes	2018 £	2017 £
3	284,292	308,349
4	2,616	478
6	21,479	19,745
	<b>24,095</b>	<b>20,223</b>
5	6,467	9,041
	17,628	11,182
	<b>£301,920</b>	<b>£319,531</b>
	248,292	308,349
	17,628	11,182
	<b>£301,920</b>	<b>£319,531</b>

*Approved*

*W B Fraser*  
Chairman

*Mrs M Dowbiggin*  
Hon. Treasurer

# Note to the Accounts

31 December 2018

## 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- (a) Expenditure is dealt with on an accruals basis, which includes making provision at the year end for grants approved which have not yet been paid.
- (b) Dividends, interest and life subscriptions receivable are credited when received.
- (c) Investments are shown at their market value at the year end. Realised and unrealised gains or losses on investments are credited or debited to the Capital Account.
- (d) Contributions received as a result of appeals for capital are credited to the Capital Account.
- (e) **Policy on reserves.** The total of grants approved over any given period is chosen to keep income and expenditure broadly in balance, and avoid the accumulation of large cash balances. It is therefore not appropriate to specify a precise level of reserves to be maintained.

## 2. GRANTS, AFFILIATIONS AND LONDON SPADE

### Grants and Donations Approved

Tyson Family Gardening Group	(2,208.55)
Family Mosaic Housing Association	(200.00)
Viridis Schools	(1,582.42)
Edible Rotherhithe	(1,028.70)
Caledonian Park (additional)	100.00
London Friends of Green Spaces Network (LFGN)	500.00
Open Garden Squares Weekend (LPGT)	1000.00
Horniman Museum	1,211.11
Phoenix School	1,078.00
Frensbury Garden	1,500.00
Flora Gardens Primary School	542.32
Elsley Primary School	700.00
Leighton House	1,010.00
Torridon Infant School	450.00
Pinner Village Gardens	1,423.00
Cody Dock (Gasworks Dock Partnership)	500.00
St Christopher's Hospice	1,047.00
Isaac Newton Academy	856.76
Pitzhanger Manor	1,027.28
London in Bloom	1,070.00
Poets' Corner Community Garden	620.00
Thornton Heath Community Garden	1,000.00
London City Farms and Community Assn	300.00
Christchurch Spitafields	500.00
Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST)	899.99
Albany Gardens	1,461.00
Highbury Quadrant School Garden	500.00
St Paul's Churchyard, Camden	1,404.26
Gipsy Hill Station	500.00
Corsica Street Garden	426.21
Olden Gardens	800.00
Comber Grove Primary School	450.00
Willesden Green Library	832.00
Beverley Park	500.00
<b>Affiliations</b>	
London Forum	19.00
Fields in Trust	50.00
London Spade Engraving	52.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£19,310.26</b>

# Note to the Accounts

31 December 2018

## 3. FIXED ASSETS

	Equities Investment Fund for Charities £	COIF Income Units £	COIF Deposit Account £	Total 2018 £	2017 £
As at 1 January 2018	153,755	154,494	100	308,349	287,138
Realised and unrealised gains & losses	20,446	3591		24,057	308,349
As at 31 December 2018	£133,289	£150,903	£100	£284,292	£308,349
Holding in Units	9,360	10,486.77			
<b>Cost of investments 31 December 2018</b>	<b>£5,881</b>	<b>£116,622</b>		<b>£122,503</b>	
31 December 2017	£5,881	£116,622		£122,503	
<b>4. DEBTORS</b>					
Tax recoveries due				£2,616	£478
<b>5. CREDITORS</b>					
Family Mosaic Housing Assoc					200
Viridis Schools					1,582
Bricklayers Arms Tenants Assoc					300
Caledonian Park Friends Group					700
Friends of Hilly Fields					521
Henry Dickens Garden Club					1,000
Deptford Folk Evelyn 200					1,500
Edible Rotherhithe Avondale					1,029
Tyssen Family Gardening Group					2,209
St Paul's Church Yard				1,404	
Friends of Gipsy Hill				500	
Corsica Street				426	
Olden Gardens				800	
Nomura				2,005	
Willesden Green Library				832	
Beverley Park				500	
			<b>Total</b>	<b>£6,467</b>	<b>£9,041</b>
<b>6. CASH at BANK and in HAND</b>					
TSB Bank				10,802	5,293
COIF				9,677	14,452
Metro				1,000	
			<b>Total</b>	<b>£19,745</b>	<b>£23,410</b>

Included in the TSB amount is £2,500 received from the Worshipful Company of Gardeners for 2019.

## Note to the Accounts *continued*

31 December 2018

### 7. COMMITMENTS AT YEAR END

#### Firm Commitments

London in Bloom	
London in Bloom Awards	
Open Garden Squares Weekend (LPGT)	
London City Farms Prizes	
Fairchild Garden	

Contribution £	Borough
1,000	London wide
70	London wide
1,000	London wide
300	varies
10,000	Hackney

*Firm commitments are subject to projects, events proceeding as planned.*

## TREASURER'S REPORT ON THE 2018 ACCOUNTS

During the year we approved 30 grants for a total of £24,209.93 (2017 total grants 27 value £22,303.00)

Our investments were unchanged but at the year end their value of £284,292 was 7.8% lower than at December 2017. This reflected the movement in share prices generally. Our income from investments amounted to £12,620, an increase of 4.2%.

In addition to grants from The Worshipful Company of Gardeners and The Worshipful Company of Saddlers, we received an individual donation of £10,000. Our income from other donations and subscriptions resulted in a modest increase over the year. We are very grateful for all this support.

The Annual General Meeting and other administrative costs were slightly lower than in 2017.



# JOIN THE METROPOLITAN PUBLIC GARDENS ASSOCIATION

The MPGA is a philanthropic charity, established in 1882, that has remained true to its principal object, which is the protection and safeguarding of public spaces within the Greater London area.

How the MPGA does this has evolved over the years, but its dedicated team of volunteers remain committed to providing small grants and expertise to local groups who strive to create and maintain the Capital's green spaces.

In 1882 when Lord Brabazon, later the first Earl of Meath, conceived the charity a seventh of the UK population lived in Greater London. Since then the city's 4.8 million inhabitants have doubled to 8.6m, the highest since its 1938 peak. Diminishing government funding and growing development is putting huge pressure on our green spaces, large and small.

Your membership of only £25 pa helps us make London a greener and more vibrant city for generations to come. For more details of membership and the work we do visit [www.mpga.org.uk](http://www.mpga.org.uk) where you will also find details of life membership for £250 (£150 if over 60 years of age). We very much look forward to meeting new members at our AGM and if you can't make it we will send you a copy of our Annual Report which keeps you abreast of our activities.

**Complete and return the Membership Form overleaf or download the form at [www.mpga.org.uk](http://www.mpga.org.uk)**



# GET INVOLVED AND JOIN US

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Tel day \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## SUBSCRIPTION RATE - ANNUAL

Adult £25  Student/over 60 £15

## LIFE SUBSCRIPTION - single payment

Adult £250  over 60 £150

Corporate £500

Donation £ .....

Cheque/Banker's Order enclosed £ .....

I want the MPGA to treat all my donations as **Gift Aid**. I am a UK Taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax/Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference. *Please tick box.*

## BANKER'S ORDER FORM/DETAILS FOR BACS

Bank \_\_\_\_\_

Branch Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Sort Code \_\_\_\_\_ Acc No \_\_\_\_\_

Acc Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay MPGA the sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_ immediately and again on 1 January 20 \_\_\_\_\_ and on 1 January each subsequent year until further notice.

Bank Metro      Sort Code 23 05 80      Acc No 31202116

Acc Name      Metropolitan Public Gardens Association

## RETURN FORM WITH CHEQUE/BANKER'S ORDER TO:

Hon Treasurer, MPGA, 14 Magnolia Way, Cheshunt, Herts EN8 0FD



Northwick Park Station (LB Harrow)

# BULBS FOR LONDON



# Taylors

BULBS

Quality Assured since 1919



By Appointment to  
H. M. The Queen  
Bulb Growers,  
O.A. Taylor and Sons Bulbs Ltd.  
Holbeach

## Proud to Support London's Green Spaces

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